# Litany To The Holy Spirit

For Mixed Voices, S.A.T.B., and Piano

Music by
Lee McClure

Text by
Robert Herrick
1591-1674

#### LITANY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Robert Herrick

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!
When I lie within my bed,
Sick in heart and sick in head,
And with doubts discomforted,

When the house doth sigh and weep,
And the world is drown'd in sleep,
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the passing bell doth toll, And the Furies in a shoal Come to fright a parting soul, Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the tapers now burn blue, And the comforters are few, And that number more than true, Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the priest his last hath pray'd,
And I nod to what is said,
'Cause my speech is now decay'd,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When, God knows, I'm toss'd about Either with despair or doubt; Yet before the glass be out, Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the tempter me pursu'th
With the sins of all my youth,
And half damns me with untruth,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the flames and hellish cries
Fright mine ears and fright mine eyes,
And all terrors me surprise,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the Judgment is reveal'd,
And that open'd which was seal'd,
When to Thee I have appeal'd
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

#### LITANY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

for chorus and piano'

Music by Lee McClure

Text by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Performed by the Gregg Smith Singers, 1988

### Text as altered for the music score

(piano introduction)

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me
When God knows
God knows I'm tossed about
– God knows

(scat singing)
ba dooka doom <u>dah</u>
bah dah doom (repeats)
When I lie within my bed,
Sick in heart and sick in head,
And with doubts discomforted,
Sweet Spirit, comfort, comfort me!
Comfort me

La, la la... (humming...)

(scat singing)
doon doon doon ...
When the house doth sigh and weep
Sigh and weep
And the world is drownd in sleep
Drownd in sleep
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep
Watch do keep
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep
Sweet Spirit,
Sweet Spirt comfort me (repeats...)

(piano transition and diminuendo )

(whistling, whispering...)

When the passing bell doth toll

And the Furies in a shoal

(vocal effects: bird noises, clapping, sighs, shouting ...)

Come to fright a parting soul

Sweet Spirit comfort me

(piano transition diminuendo, to grand pause)(slow crescendo to Funk riff with vocal "ahs"... diminuendo) . . . . . ↑ When the tapers now burn blue And the comforters are few And that number more than true Sweet Spirit comfort me

When the tapers now burn blue And the comforters are few And that number And that number more than true Sweet Spirit comfort me Comfort, comfort me, comfort me

(vocal call and answer)
When the priest his last hath prayed
the priest his last hath prayed
And I nod to what is said
And I nod to what is said
'Cause my speech is now - now decayed
'cause my speech is now decayed
Sweet Spirit comfort me,
Sweet Spirit comfort me

When the priest his last hath prayed
the priest his last hath prayed
And I nod to what is said
And I nod to what is said
'Cause my speech is now - now decayed
'cause my speech is now decayed
Sweet Spirit comfort me, comfort me

When God knows I'm tossed about Either with despair or doubt Yet before the glass be out Sweet Spirit comfort me

When God knows I'm tossed about Either with despair or doubt Yet before the glass be out

When God knows
When God knows
I'm tossed about with
I'm tossed about wit
despair or doubt
despair or doubt
yet before the glass be out

When God knows
When God knows
I'm tossed about with
I'm tossed about with
(vocal counterpoint:)
...despair or doubt...
...the sins of all my youth

When the tempter me persu'th with the sins of all my youth and half damns me with untruth Sweet Spirit Comfort me!

When God knows I'm When God knows I'm tossed about Either with despair Either with despair or doubt Yet before the Yet before the glass be out When the Tempter When the Tempter me persu'th With the sins of With the sins of all my youth And half damns me And half damns me with untruth Either with despair Either with despair or doubt When God knows I'm When God knows I'm tossed about Yet before the yet before the glass be out Yet before the glass be out

Sweet Spirit comfort me
Sweet Spirit, Sweet Spirit comfort me
Comfort me
Comfort me! - comfort me!

When I - when I
When I lie within my bed
Sick in heart
Sick in head with doubts and
When the passing bell doth toll

When the taper now burn blue— And when the flames And hellish cries Fright mine ears And— fright mine eyes, and All terrors me surprise

When the judgment
Is revealed
And that opened
Which was sealed
When to Thee I have appealed
Sweet Spirit comfort me

Oh when the flames
And hellish cries
Fright mine ears
And— fright mine eyes, and
All terrors me surprise

When the judgment Is revealed And that opened Which was sealed When to Thee I have appealed Sweet Spirit comfort me

When the Judgment is revealed And that opened which was sealed When to Thee I have appealed When to Thee I have appealed Sweet Spirit comfort me Holy— Spirit —

Voice ranges and List of bar numbers of Recurring Theme on last page.

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## Litany to the Holy Spirit

for chorus and piano

## by Lee McClure text by Robert Herrick

<u>Litany To The Holy Spirit</u> attempts to capture the celebrations, strivings and despair of modern life through the text of 17th century poet and cleric, Robert Herrick. His portrayal of doubt and the way we lie to ourselves is refreshingly honest and contemporary, especially when seeking guidance.

<u>Litany</u> is melodic and uses traditional harmony in unexpected ways. With seamless transitions it contains an eclectic mix of neoclassical, Romantic and various Jazz styles. The overall effect is classical music with some jazz influenced sections. The piece ends with an inspirational anthem in a Romantic slow andante.

## **Timeline**

<u>time</u>	bar#	<u>description</u>
0:00	1	intro – neoclassical largo
1:28	37	bolero - a cappella
2:34	63	jazzical andante
3:17	84	transition
4:09	103	mysterioso sostenuto - extended vocal techniques
5:51	135	crescendo & diminuendo - funk ostinato
6:47	150	neo-tango
7:29	160	quasi-gospel - call and response - a cappella
8:19	176	double time - piano solo
9:38	213	fast blues - call and response - a cappella
10:46	256	inspirational anthem - Romantic rhapsody
12:37	273	coda - sostenuto
13:48	287	(last bar, end)

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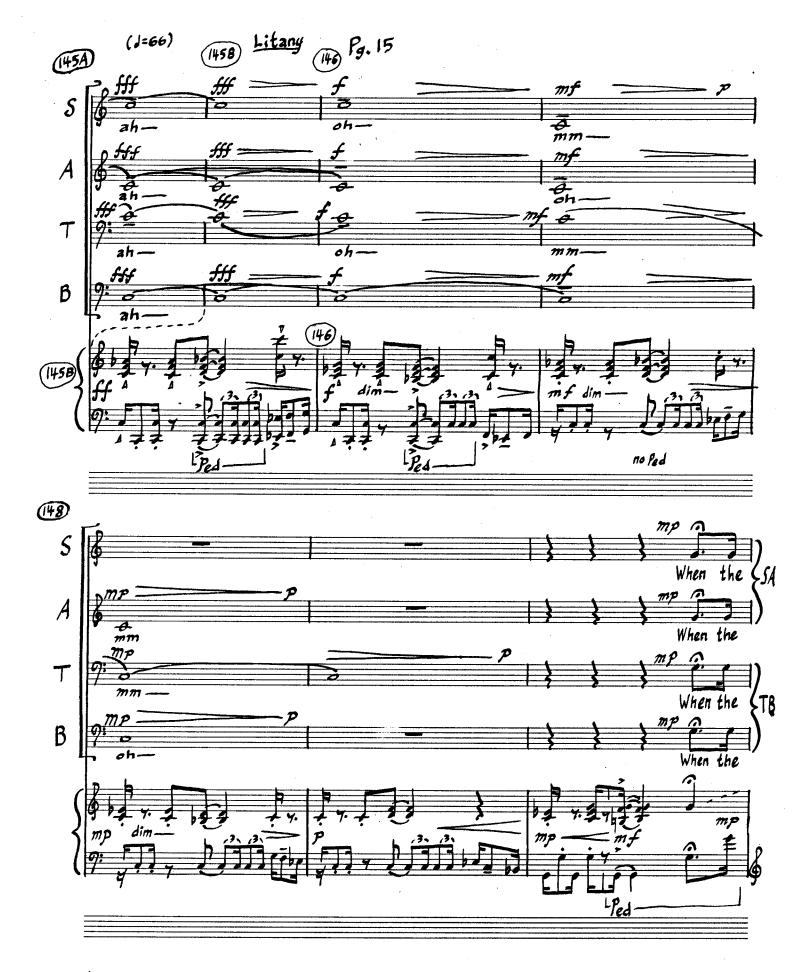
























\*NOTE: A. and B. should be accompaniment. For clarity A. and B. may sing "la" on each pitch change in measures 197-200, inclusive.















## Voice Ranges for LITANY by Lee McClare



Recurring Theme (measure no.'s)

3-10

52-59

135-155 273-280